

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 12-13, 16-20 and 27-38. Please add new Claims 39, 40 and 41.
The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A method of treating an allergic or inflammatory condition associated with IgE-mediated degranulation comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of an agent that binds to CD81 and inhibits IgE-mediated degranulation.
9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is selected from the group consisting of asthma, hay fever and atopic eczema.

10-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the agent is an anti-CD81 antibody.
22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the anti-CD81 antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is selected from the group consisting of autoimmune (Type I) diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, sarcoidosis, Sjögren's syndrome, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, dermatomyositis, scleroderma, polymyositis, systemic lupus erthematosus, biliary cirrhosis, autoimmune thyroiditis, autoimmune hepatitis, psoriasis, contact sensitivity and atopic dermatitis.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8 wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is passive cutaneous anaphylaxis.
25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the agent does not alter one or more of FcεR1-induced tyrosine phosphorylation, FcεR1-induced intracellular calcium mobilization and leukotriene C₄ (LTC₄) production.
26. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the IgE-mediated degranulation is mediated by FcεRI and/or FcγRIII.
- 27-38. (Canceled)
39. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the IgE-mediated degranulation is mediated by FcεRI.
40. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is asthma.
41. (New) The method of Claim 8 further comprising administering a physiologically acceptable carrier.